

December 2008



Supporting Creative Learning

Rhinebeck Science Foundation

PO Box 508 Rhinebeck NY 12572 845.876.0748 www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org

Grants In Action

The Rhinebeck Science Foundation awarded grants totaling more than \$6000 for the 2008 - 2009 school year. In collaboration with teachers and other grantors, these first funds purchased equipment for hands-on student use in each of Rhinebeck's three schools.

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

- Six movable-stage microscopes equipped with chargeable LED illuminators allowing for classroom and field use
- A visual projection system

Bulkeley Middle School

- Five stereoscopic microscopes and a visual recording and projection system

Rhinebeck High School

- A spectrophotometer and Trekker Environmental Analysis System

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"The stereomicroscopes will certainly enhance students' opportunities to learn about the natural world and get "up close" with some of our laboratory activities. For example, they will enable us to observe the hearts beating in the trout alevins growing in the classroom tank where we raise them until their release in the spring into the Landsman Kill."

Sharon Hicks
Science Teacher, grade 7, BMS

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An Excellent First Year

When we opened the doors of Chancellor Livingston School late in the morning on November 1st for the first annual Discovery Festival, we hoped to see the familiar faces of many children and parents from our small, closely-knit community. Never in our wildest dreams did we anticipate greeting nearly 800 festival goers of all ages hailing not only from the Rhinebeck school district, but also Red Hook and other area schools both public and private.

Generous sponsorship by area hospitals and health care practices, as well as local businesses and individual donors helped to bring the wonder of science, technology and mathematics vividly to

life for our children. A dedicated corps of volunteers, under the visionary leadership of Roger Quon, Metta Callahan and Karri



Wolfe, transformed Chancellor's classrooms, cafeteria, parking lot and gymnasium into laboratories for-a-day. I was privileged to witness elementary school kids operating a LEGO catapult, middle-schoolers programming and racing robots, and high-school students working with cardiologists to perform virtual angioplasties. A serious chess tournament was underway in the midst of physics and engineering demonstrations. All these exhibits shared one common and defining feature: they engaged young people in the kind of active learning that genuinely stimulates the imagination.

(continued on back page)



Alexis Beach and Carol Tyson learn to use their new stereoscopic microscopes



Jim Stevenson and Marco Brizzi ready a water rocket prior to launch



Olivia Fajardo and Libby Mensch get ready to learn about carnivorous plants

Poker Fundraiser Comes Up Aces

Tired of boring old fundraisers, long speeches and rubber chicken? Discover Rhinebeck Science Foundation's rip-roarin' Poker Night. This is truly an event where everyone leaves a winner, and the poker action alone is well worth your donation to an excellent cause.

On a hot night this Summer, a posse of novices and experts alike gathered in a cool barn and sat down to fold 'em and hold 'em. The beer was cold, the food was hearty, and the action was hot as blazes as cowboys-for-a-night bought in for a serious night of card playing.

How fun was it? No sooner did folks lose their last chip than they were buying back in for more action. Although the field included sharps from Manhattan, Westchester and Ulster, greenhorns had nothing to fear from pros. There were grins and backslapping all around (and even a little trash talking from our own Nathaniel Charny) in an atmosphere that was lively and fun.

And tense at the end, as the showdown between Martin Cascio, Bernard Lunn and Carolina Heflin first saw Cascio lose an overwhelming chip advantage against

some powerful river cards before Lunn's all in flush finally beat Heflin's three queens.

After all the chips were counted, RSF raised over \$12,000, and tired and happy players headed off into the sunset. Thanks to: Bernard Lunn, Carolina Heflin and Ian Schaad, who donated \$3,000 in winnings; the Kingston Hospital for a donation of \$1000; Chuck and Alexa Dull for their donation of the Wild Acres Farm barn; Starr Place for great grub and ice cold beer; and Rhinebeck Rentals, for chairs and tables.

Keep checking the Pony Express so you don't miss next year's event, Pardner!



"The spectrophotometer allows chemistry students to investigate kinetics (reaction rates) and equilibrium (reversible reactions). The instrument will also be used in our Environmental Science class for pollution studies, and in our A.P. Biology class for analysis of photosynthetic pigments."

Dan O'Leary
Science Teacher, grades 9 -12, RHS



If only we could bottle the oohs and aahs of discovery and wonder as children and parents crowded around tables, craned their necks, and opened their eyes and ears to the truly amazing demonstrations and exhibits of the Discovery Festival. The one complaint? Not enough time to take all 31 in.

Nearly 800 people attended the Festival on November 1 creating an instant, stunning success and a memorable



Lylah Bateman learns how small she can see

For more information visit our website: www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org



Talia Goldman, Will Kantaros and Devin Pozza play chess



Stephanie Cassens and Amber Codacovi examine a turtle at Hudsonia's turtle tracking exhibition



Discovery Festival is Magic!

introduction of the Rhinebeck Science Foundation to the greater community. For three hours, volunteers inside and outside of Chancellor Livingston Elementary demonstrated the fun, learning and excitement of science and technology to thrilled participants. Attendees experienced laparoscopic surgery, a virtual cardiac cath lab, optical illusions, a camera obscura, robot races, code breaking, carnivorous plants, and the building of a spaghetti tower, to list a few of the exhibitions.

The day's activities more than fulfilled RSF's goal of helping science leap from the textbook and into the lives and the minds of students. It also dramatically brought together otherwise untapped resources for advancing science education in our schools.

Drawing upon the resources of our community, RSF organized friends and



I loved it; my son loved it; his friends loved it; my friends loved it. I hope that with events like the Festival my son won't lose the fascination he has discovered he has with science.

Judy Schneyer



neighbors who generously contributed to the Festival's success. Doctors, engineers, chemists, biologists, ecologists, law enforcement officers, all experienced professionals, hosted exhibits and shared their knowledge throughout the day. As volunteers, they had created and realized each station of learning and fun. Again and again their infectious passion demonstrated the creativity and importance of science in our lives.

Assisting the volunteers, local and international businesses pitched in as well, making generous donations of money, time and equipment. This community-wide day demonstrated that the growing concern about the future of scientific education can lead to effective responses.

As RSF pursues its goal of assisting science and technology education in Rhinebeck, the energy

and excitement of the Discovery Festival will carry all of us forward.



My husband, a semiconductor engineer for over 20 years, raved about this event. He is especially impressed that many of the presenters were professional, local scientists, sharing exactly what they do and acting so kindly to the kids. He thought it the caliber of some of the best science museums.

Jenny Odlum



Danika Jackson pours vinegar into baking soda as Jillien and Natalie Traudt watch to see the candle go out

For more information visit our website: www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org

Upcoming Events

February 2009: Engineering Week

Rhinebeck Science Foundation will make professional engineers available for in-class curriculum enhancement

May 2, 2009: The Ungala

An evening celebration at Grasmere where RSF will award grants and celebrate teachers.

Fall 2009: Discovery Festival



DID YOU KNOW?

Prior to receiving support from Rhinebeck Science Foundation and Taconic IPA this year, Bulkeley Middle School students in 7th grade Life Science had only one stereoscopic microscope. Now they have six, allowing small groups of students to work together.



Rhinebeck Science Foundation

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An Excellent First Year...continued

The hands-on approach to science education on display at the Discovery Festival is absolutely central to Rhinebeck Science Foundation's mission. We know that kids are naturally curious. So too are scientists. Indeed, the scientific method makes the still-revolutionary demand that we empirically investigate what we think we know about the natural world rather than simply accept received ideas. Cultivating intellectual flexibility will be crucial for the next generation: our sons and daughters face daunting challenges that science, mathematics and technology will help them to meet. Rhinebeck Science Foundation is committed to supporting our outstanding teachers and school administrators in their ongoing quest to make project-based learning central to curricular planning. I want to thank each and every participant in this wonderful event—the inspired donors, volunteers, and most of all, participants—who helped us to appreciate collectively what the future can and should hold for our schools here in Rhinebeck.



"Thanks to the efforts of the RSF, the CLS Science Department is now able to provide K-5 classroom teachers with sufficient numbers of microscopes for whole-class lessons."

William Worrell

Science Facilitator, grades K-5, CLS



It (Discovery Festival) was truly amazing, what a fabulous job making science fun. Thank you to all involved.

Karen Hansen



Jen Hammoud presents RSF's first donation to Elissa Cascio, President of the BOE and Joseph Phelan, Superintendent, RCSD

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A copy of the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, Inc.'s latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.